



EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2016

DATE ISSUED: September 1, 2016

LATEST REVISION: N/A

SUBJECT: Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to establish an advisory committee and direct the conduct of a five-year review of child fatalities resulting from child abuse or neglect in the state of New Jersey. The establishment of this committee is in furtherance of the Department's review and support of the recommendations made in the final report of the national Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

II. SCOPE

This Order has Department-wide applicability.

III. DEFINITIONS

Child Fatality means a fatality of person under the age of 18 which has been determined to result from child abuse or neglect as defined in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.21(c)

Department or DCF means the Department of Children and Families, inclusive of all organizational elements and divisions therein.

IV. POLICY

- A. A DCF Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities (hereafter "Committee") is hereby established. The Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner and membership otherwise comprised of:
1. The Assistant Commissioner for Child Protection and Permanency;
 2. The Assistant Commissioner for Program Management and Accountability or Designee;
 3. The Assistant Commissioner for the Children's System of Care or Designee;
 4. The Director of Clinical Services;
 5. The Director of the Office of Legal and Legislative Affairs;
 6. The Director of Communications and Public Relations;
 7. The Administrator Office of Early Childhood Services; and
 8. A representative from the DCF Section of the Division of Law in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

- B. The Committee is charged with the review of case records and findings of previous reviews and post-incident analyses related to all child fatalities as a result of child abuse or neglect occurring in the state between calendar year 2010 and 2015. A written report outlining findings and recommendations to decrease child fatalities shall be produced upon the completion of the review.
- C. The Committee is authorized to call upon departmental staff and resources as required, and to be afforded ready access to any and all records, information or personnel of the Department.
- D. The Committee may call upon any third parties to inform the review of specific child fatalities as a result of abuse or neglect or to inform recommendations. As necessary, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:3A-8, the commissioner may compel by subpoena the attendance of witnesses and the production of information and records in furtherance of the advisory committee's objectives.
- E. Prior to the release of the final report, the Committee shall present findings and solicit input from the Citizen Review Panels established in accordance with 42 USC §5106a(c) (The New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board, and the Staffing Oversight Review Subcommittee).
- F. The final report of the Committee is a tool for DCF as a self-learning and self-correcting organization through self-critical analysis. The final report shall only disclose information related to child fatalities as permissible by law as cited and articulated within DCF Administrative Order 6.00.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Blake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allison" and the last name "Blake" clearly distinguishable.

Allison Blake, PH.D., L.S.W.
Commissioner